

Subject: Re: TVP reply

From: Kari <magazine@thespiritofcommunity.org>

Date: 9/12/2012 11:49 AM

To: Roxanne Meadows <meadows@thevenusproject.com>

Dear Roxanne,

Firstly, please allow me to apologize for not having responded to your request sooner. I hope that the wait has not been too great an inconvenience.

I would like to clarify that we are happy to publish, in issue #9 of our magazine (due January 2013), The Venus Project's response to the article, "*Debunking the Venus Project*" from issue #8 of our magazine. It is our policy to publish letters to the editor upon request, provided that these letters do not invoke violence, hate speech, or slander directed at any particular individual or group. There is also the alternative option of providing a rebuttal article that carefully addresses the points of concern, or, indeed the option of re-issuing the original article in an amended form - with errors of fact corrected.

However, a few clarifications need to be made, which may result in a few minor amendments to the letter. Points will be addressed in the order in which they appear in your letter:

- Our magazine is, indeed, available for purchase via www.zeitgeistaustralia.org. It is also available via other platforms. It is also available for download via all platforms for free, the option most readers choose.
- The *Spirit of the Times* magazine is not an official magazine of the Zeitgeist Movement and does not claim to be so. It was established by a team of volunteers of the Zeitgeist Movement and functions as an autonomous project outside of the governance structure of the movement. It is provided to www.zeitgeistaustralia.org as third party content, as is the work of Peter Joseph. A clarification will be placed on the website to communicate this.
- David Zwolski, the author of the article, has, in recent months, stepped down from his responsibilities as national coordinator of the Zeitgeist Movement's Australian chapter, and is currently in the process of transferring his responsibilities to other volunteers. He is, therefore, a *former* coordinator, not a *current* coordinator. His author bio will be amended in our next issue.
- The *Spirit of the Times* magazine does not profess to support The Venus Project. We acknowledge that the objectives of the organization are admirable, but our broad approach to systemic change reaches beyond the scope of the Venus Project, rather than seeking to align.

I would like to personally apologize for any offense caused to any individuals by the publication of this article in *Spirit of the Times*, so please pass my sincere apologies to anyone who has been personally offended. No offense was intended. The purpose of the magazine is to bring attention to global issues, and their potential causes and solutions, for a more generalized audience, not specifically a TZM/TVP audience, although TZM does constitute a large proportion of our readership. The purpose of this particular issue was to investigate social constructs and myths, as well as inspire curiosity for investigation.

May I take the opportunity here to inquire as to the involvement of Peter Joseph, founder of the Zeitgeist Movement, in this matter? We, at *Spirit of the Times*, appreciate that The Venus Project have approached us

directly in relation to the matter in question, via the appropriate channels, as this is what we specifically ask for readers of our magazine to do. However, we have been informed by Peter Joseph that he is receiving harassment over our publication. I have requested for Peter to forward all correspondence to me, as the buck does, indeed, stop with me, as editor of the magazine, and responsibility is inappropriately assigned to him in this case. Peter should not be held, either publicly or privately, responsible for the work of autonomous volunteers.

As a result of correspondence Peter states he is personally receiving at present he has demanded the removal of the offending article from our magazine and threatened the Australian chapter with removal of official status should its volunteers fail to comply within 24 hours. Following an emergency meeting with the Australian chapter a decision was arrived at whereby the article has been removed for the sake of diplomacy, although a full response to Peter Joseph's ultimatum is still a deliberation in progress. There was by no means a consensus that the article should be removed, but a strong desire for the chapter not to receive a collective punishment in response to a single article written by one person.

I would like to clarify The Venus Project's position on this situation. The article has now been removed from the magazine published on www.zeitgeistaustralia.org, as demanded. This places us in a difficult position regarding publication of The Venus Project's letter in the upcoming issue, as without the offending article the letter is a response to nothing and will likely instigate investigation of its impetus by readers. We would like clarification of which option, therefore, the Venus Project would prefer us to take:

- Reinstatement of the article in our current issue, and publication of The Venus Project's response in our upcoming issue.
- Continuation of issue #8 of the magazine as it is, at present, without the article in question, hence leaving nothing for The Venus Project to officially respond to (this means that the formal response would not be published).
- Provision of a rebuttal article by the Venus Project to be published in the upcoming issue of *Spirit of the Times* (requires reinstatement of the article in question in our current issue).
- Re-publication of the article in question, corrected for factual error/s (may not require reinstatement of the article in question in our current issue).

If there is a further option that The Venus Project considers more appropriate please inform us and we will consider its application.

Thank you very much for your professional and sincere handling of this matter. We endeavour to respond in kind.

Warm regards,

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Kari McGregor
Editor, *Spirit of the Times*

www.thespiritofcommunity.org

On 5/12/2012 9:46 AM, Roxanne Meadows wrote:

You can print this entire reply to your article about The Venus Project in your next issue as is.
The Venus Project